

5900

Dear Public Health Committee Members,

I am a concerned father of a daughter with exceptional needs. I am submitting this testimony in favor of Bill Number 5900- An Act Concerning Electronic Eligibility Forms for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities.

Individuals with intellectual disability need to annually complete extensive redetermination paperwork with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). In most cases parents and guardians are responsible to complete the forms. In order to ease the burden on parents and guardians to complete more paperwork Bill Number 5900 was introduced by Representative Kiner after hearing from parents and visiting HARC, Inc.

HARC is a community-based nonprofit organization in Hartford funded through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). It was founded in 1951 and helps over 2,200 individuals with intellectual disability and their families. HARC is a major provider of clinical and supportive programs that span the entire lifetime: early intervention (Birth-to-Three), family support, respite care, employment and day services, residential, recreation, behavioral health and elderly services.

Additional funding is always the most important issue with helping nonprofit community providers. However, there are other steps that legislators can take to help parents and guardians of individuals with intellectual disability. Requiring DDS to provide electronic redetermination eligibility forms and create a permanent disability form will accomplish that task, and save the State of Connecticut money during these challenging fiscal times.

Respectfully,
Luis Recoder-Núñez